(MNP). The Central Government only supplements the efforts of the States by providing funds under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Powers have been delegated to the States to plan, sanction and implement their individual water supply schemes.

An amount of Rs. 7442.20 lakh has been released to Gujarat during 1999-2000 under ARWSP. In addition, an amount of Rs. 400 lakh has also been released to the State Government for implementation of ARWSP schemes in areas covered under the Desert Development Programme (DDP).

The Government of Gujarat has informed that they are facing scarcity of drinking water in 8666 villages of 138 talukas of 17 Districts. State Government has taken steps to supply drinking water to the affected areas. 1247 villages/ hamlets have been supplied with drinking water, wherein 205 villages/ habitations are of Kutch district.

The Government of Gujarat has formulated a drinking water scarcity master plan 1999-2000 covering 6312 villages, 69 towns and 3 Municipal Corporations amounting to Rs. 31088.38 lakh to overcome probable shortage of drinking water in the State.

Starvation in Kalahandi

2273. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the people are still starving in Kalahandi as reported in 'Telegraph' on 21st February, 2000; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected.

Irregularities in distribution of houses under IAY

2274. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether irregularities have been found in the distribution of houses under Indira Awaas Yojana in Gram Panchayats;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether cases of depriving eligible persons from getting houses affluent people getting the houses in connivance with officers/employees have been detected; and

(d) if so, the action proposed against such guilty officials and action proposed to allot houses to eligible persons only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In some cases irregularities of this nature have been noticed.

(d) As and when irregularities come to notice, the Ministry of Rural Development immediately takes up the matter with the concerned State Governments for appropriate action.

Land Reforms in States

2275. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have reviewed the land reforms measures undertaken by various States;

(b) if so, the achievements made by various States in that regard;

(c) whether some guidelines have been prescribed by Central Gvoernment for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) how far these guidelines have been followed by the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Union Government reviews, from time to time, land reform measures undertaken by States at various fora including Chief Ministers / Revenue Ministers' Conferences etc. Last Revenue Ministers Conference was held on 17th September, 1998. The State-wise achievements under various land reforms programmes viz. (i) Implementation of land ceiling laws (ii) Distribution of Government wastelands (iii) Distribution of Bhoodan lands (iv) Tenancy reforms, (v) Restoration of alienated tribal land and (vi) Consolidation of land holding programme, are given in the attached Statement (*see* below).

(c) to (e) This Ministry have issued guidelines for distribution of ceiling surplus lands based on the recommendations of the Chief Minister's Conference held in July, 1972. The States have been distributing ceiling surplus land according to the guidelines fixed for the purpose.